



# PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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## FCC EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE OF AUXILIARY BROADCAST EQUIPMENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC DURING EMERGENCIES

Because of the vital role broadcast stations serve in providing critical information to the public during emergencies, the Commission wants to emphasize to broadcasters the importance of standby electrical generators and auxiliary broadcast transmitters and antennas in maintaining communications during emergencies when the main or primary equipment being used may become disabled.

In the past year we have received a record number of emergency activation notifications by broadcast stations that are part of the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS). The disasters that triggered EBS activations included Hurricane Andrew, the New York State blizzard, numerous tornadoes and the major flooding of large rivers.

During those disasters, some broadcast stations experienced a loss of electrical power or severe damage to their transmitters, towers or antennas which, in turn, resulted in their going off the air and no longer being able to communicate important emergency or disaster information to the public. In those instances, only the broadcast stations with access to standby emergency electrical generators or auxiliary transmitters and/or antennas were able to continue operation and emergency communications.

The installation and availability of standby electrical generators and auxiliary transmitters and antennas by broadcast stations, whether they are members of the EBS System or not, will help to ensure that the extremely vital links of emergency broadcast communications to the public during times of disasters are maintained.

Section 73.1670 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 73.1670, allows the installation and use of one or more auxiliary transmitters with a broadcast station's main antenna system without further authority from the Commission under a number of conditions, including EBS operation. Commission requirements and procedures regarding the installation and use of auxiliary antennas are contained in Section 73.1675 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 73.1675.

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